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Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
LATENT FINGERPRINTS PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 29-January-2004

15 STICKY SIDE TAPE POWDER TECHNIQUE

15.1 INTRODUCTION

The use of powder suspensions to develop impressions on the sticky side of tape has proven to be an effective alternative to the gentian violet technique. The use of powder suspensions to maximize contrast is the preferred technique on dark colored tapes lacking the availability of vacuum metal deposition. The consistent performance of powder suspensions on the adhesive side of tapes may, in the future, relegate the gentian violet technique to a secondary role when processing the adhesive side of tapes.

15.2 PREPARATION

- 1. Combine Photo Flo 200 with tap water at a ratio of 1:1.
- 2. Add Sticky Side Powder to the solution and stir until the mixture is the consistency of a thick paste.

15.3 MINIMUM STANDARDS & CONTROLS

Powders, such as sticky side powder, work by adhering and causing discoloration to latent print residue. Due to their inherent ability to adhere and discolor these materials, there is no need for test impressions to be done prior to evidence application.

15.4 PROCEDURE OR ANALYSIS

- 1. Immerse item to be processed in the working suspension or paint the mixture on the sticky side of the tape using a soft bristled brush.
- 2. Allow the suspension to remain on the item for approximately 10 seconds.
- 3. Remove the item from the suspension and rinse excess suspension from the item by washing with a gentle flow of cold tap water.
- 4. This process may be repeated until optimum contrast is reached between the impressions developed and the background.
- 5. Photograph any developed impressions.

15.5 INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

This technique has been shown to be very productive and stable. Impressions developed by the powder technique do not readily fade, however, all suitable latent impressions must be photographed. In addition, studies have shown that many powders can be used other than "Sticky Side Powder". This allows for the selection of a powder that will give maximum contrast with the background of the item being processed. If using powders other than "Sticky Side Powder" test impressions, on a similar type of tape, must be done as tests have shown that not all powders work well in this type of application.

15.6 REFERENCES

- 1. Gray, M. Leanne. "Sticky-side Powder Versus Gentian Violet: The Search for the Superior Method for Processing the Sticky Side of Adhesive Tape"; *Journal of Forensic Identification*, 1996, 46, 3, 268-272.
- 2. Kimble, Gary W. "Powder Suspension Processing"; Journal of Forensic Identification, 1996, 46, 3, 273-280.